



April 25, 2014

Weekly Report

A Highlight of Departmental Activities

The Weekly Report showcases the activities and accomplishments of the many Departments within Rutherford County Government. Click on the directory list, department headings, icons and text in blue to be linked to more information.

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Airport

The Airport sold 379.90 gallons of 100-LL fuel and 295 gallons of Jet A. Prepaid customer fuel sales totaled 448 gallons. Cash sales totaled \$25.97.

Board of Elections

The Board of Elections kicked off One-stop voting started on April 24 in their office and have been moderately busy. Voting will begin at the County Office Building on Monday. The Board met on Tuesday to approve absentee applications and staff held their last training session for poll workers on Wednesday. The deadline for candidates to file their first quarter reports on their campaign finances is next Monday. Staff have been extremely busy working with the candidates and their treasurers to get these first reports completed.

Building Inspections

The Building Inspections Department has had a busy week. The better weather has inspired projects to get underway. Staff have issued 44 permits totaling \$5,242 in fees. Inspectors also conducted 190 inspections. A note of interest is that they have recently issued permits for 3 new towers and multiple co-locates on existing towers. It seems that county wide connectivity should improve in the coming months. New house construction seems to be holding steady with an average for new houses around 10 per month.

Clerk to the Board

The Commissioners' Office has spent much of the week preparing information for the upcoming agenda for the May 5 County Commissioners' Meeting.

On Tuesday, Commissioner Owens attended a meeting held by the Social Services' Board. Also on Tuesday, the Clerk to the Board and the Deputy Clerk to the Board/Public Information Clerk attended a meeting of the Contemporary Media Group.

The Public Information Clerk (PIC) met with Airport staff to tour the facility operations to prepare for the development of a signage enhancement plan. The Solid Waste Director and Code Enforcement Officer teamed together with the PIC to begin developing a signage plan and to further discuss education platforms for the Litter Awareness Initiative. The PIC also attended the Enhanced Recycling Program Committee's meeting.

The Contemporary Media Group met as a follow up to their initial meeting this past January. This group will continue to meet and develop public information and communication outlets to better serve our communities with accurate messages regarding County services and opportunities. Development continues on marketing templates, announcements and invitations for upcoming events. A text to subscribe campaign was created to increase access to the County's eMedia, received and processed three public records requests, and assisted EDC and the Farmers Market in pushing out three press releases through the eMedia and CMG network.

Cooperative Extension

The Cooperative Extension's Family and Consumer Sciences staff met with the Chronic Disease Prevention committee, taught Steps to Health 2nd grade nutrition, met with Extension & Community Association members and submitted the monthly news column.

The Agriculture staff submitted the following:

EMGV Intern Training - Week 8 (Plant Propagation/Houseplants)

Working the EMGV's in finalizing the Community Garden Applications for the public.

Networking on the WNC AgriVentures Grant Award and the relocation of the Farmers Market.

Appalachian Regional Commission - 'Liveable Communities' Grant, coordinating program for site visit and grant announcement as it relates to the feasibility studies for the Agriculture Innovations & Solutions Center.

Radio - WCAB

Press Releases for High Tunnel/Season Extension Workshop scheduled for April 29th.

4-H Demonstration Judging

Contacts: 74

County Manager

The County Manager did not hold office hours this week. However, he managed operations and services remotely with the assistance, cooperation and leadership of his staff.

He will be returning on Wednesday, April 30.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Executive Director reviewed existing local incentive agreements with the attorney; finalized the budget estimates for incentives to be paid out in FY14-15; prepared items for the Board of Commissioners agenda; attended the Town of Rutherfordton and the Town of Ruth Board meetings; met with new industry representatives to discuss how EDC can support their local efforts, toured a potential facility and made introductions to municipal representatives; conducted the Economic Development Commission Board meeting; participated in a listen session with local industry to determine what their needs are; and worked to identify critical priorities for the county.

The Project Administrator networked with existing industry via visits, phone calls and email; followed up with existing industry leaders for the Listening Session invitations/participation; met with EDC Director and WDB Director to finalize questions and create an agenda for the Listening Session with local industry; attended the Listening Session; met with local expanding industry to get signatures on Town of Spindale and Rutherford County documents; sent congratulatory letters to NC DOL Gold Safety Award winners and met with representatives regarding Duke-Energy's Smart Saver Program for businesses.

The Economic Development Assistant participated in a Contemporary Media Group meeting; researched and provided back up for FY14-15 incentive estimates; prepared documentation for a disbursement request on an existing One NC grant; distributed an industry expansion press release; and attended and transcribed the Economic Development Commission Board meeting.

Finance

The Finance Officer continues to work closely with department heads to review the 2014-2015 budget requests and working towards a balanced budget. The Assistant Director has reviewed the Special District budget requests. The Director and Human Resources Director met to review all personnel related budget requests. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable for the week.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

The Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Director conducted investigative interviews, participated in a state-wide hurricane exercise on Tuesday, performed maintenance on equipment and attended various meetings.

Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. We hope everyone enjoyed the Easter weekend. The Director and Assistant attended a meeting at ICC on Wednesday sponsored by the HR Association. The Director also met with an insurance representative. Remember the County Blood Drive for May 7th.

Call for an appointment to help “Save a Life.”



Please keep Carl Classen and his family in your prayers in the passing of his mother.

Information Technology

The IT Department feels that the caller id issues have been resolved.

Notify IT staff via TrackIt if your caller id is not working per the guidelines below. Remember to put VOIP in the subject line of your Trackit.

Caller ID is supported under the following setups.

- Your 10 digit office phone number should be presented and displayed on the receiving party's device (I.e. phone) for both local and long distance calls. Remember that the receiving party's device must support caller id.
- If you twin or forward your office phone to your cell phone. The phone number of the calling party should be displayed on your cell phone, not your office phone number.
- Calls made from analog devices such as cordless phones, conference phones, fax machines, etc., should be presented and displayed on the receiving party's device (I.e. phone).
- Outside calls made to your office phone should display the party's caller id unless they are blocking it from being sent.
- When caller id is blocked, your phone may display a blank line, the words unknown or some other string of characters.

Thank you all for your patience as IT worked through this issue.

Library

The Library had two young adults shadow the staff. Heather Greene came from Rutherford Life Services and she spent the morning at the County Library. Sydney Burgess, a 10th grader at REACH, spent time at the Haynes Branch.

Kenneth Odom has posted the CMC magazines and newspapers list on the CMC web site. You will find a link in the menu across the top of the page. www.cmclibraries.org

Miss Jeannie and the children in all three Story Times have enjoyed talking and reading about the Easter Bunny, had Egg Hunts, made crafts, and closed with an Easter Party. Outreach was at the Carver Center, and next week's theme is "Birds and Eggs."

Public Works and Planning

The Public Works and Planning Department was blessed with an enjoyable Easter weekend and is thankful for the Good Friday holiday. The garage had 13 preventative maintenance service calls, 17 repairs, 6 tire service calls and 13 other repairs/inspections. Maintenance completed 35 work orders, repairs and grounds keeping of all County facilities as mowing and trimming have rapidly come into full season. The Project Manager and Director have facilitated moving multiple projects forward along with conducting site inspections of Queens Gap, Greyrock Ruth School, Becthler Mint Site and the Farmers market. All projects underway are going very well, with the farmers market scheduled to open this coming Saturday (4/26/14). The Project Manager completed a grant writing workshop hosted by WCU and NC Community Assistance offices. He has also continued working with National Parks and OVTA for possible grants and next steps related to improving the Biggerstaff property. In addition, staff are requesting a purchase order for Knight Industries to start shoring up the house to remove the dilapidated porch and prevent public access into the house. They have shown the Ruth school to some community members as well as started follow-up with recipients of the community grants. Over the past week staff have had two bid openings, first was rail trail paving from Spindale St. to Whitesides Rd, and second is the Queens Gap project 3 bid opening. The Director is working with Odom Engineering and expect to have bid recommendations for the May Commissioners' meeting. The Director had several meetings with the Finance Officer, the County Attorney, Asst. Finance officer, the Chief Building Inspector and several members of his own staff during the past week. Lastly, they are finalizing vehicle orders in correspondence with the vehicle replacement plan.

Greyrock: The pavers are finishing paving Projects 7, 3B, part of 8 & all of 9. Project 10 clearing is completed and grading is underway.

Queens Gap: Project 1 is continuing to move forward. Both large culverts have been installed. This project is about 60% complete. Project 3 rebid was this week, with an apparent low bidder that has not worked with the County previously. Staff are verifying the experience and references of the low bidder before providing a recommendation letter.

Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds Department made five copies resulting in cash receipts of \$15.00, processed 209 real estate records with \$10,486.00 received in cash, and processed 180 vitals, receiving \$2,500.00. A total of 394 transactions were made with a total of \$13,001.00 in cash received.

Revenue

The Revenue Department answered 669 phone calls, and assisted 262 citizens who came in to the office. 8 deeds were recorded and 35 were transferred. 22 new accounts were set up. Mapping completed 3 splits, 1 merge, and created 4 new maps. 3 new E911 addressees were assigned and 1 new road was created. Ownership of 34 addressees was updated. Maintenance on 5 road signs was completed. Appraisers completed 503 field reviews. Electronic payments consisted of 16 by credit/debit, 30 by website, and 17 by phone. Enforced collection action consisted of 61 garnishments, 10 attachments, and 3 employee lists. Another 2 lists have been requested. 11 Deeds were certified. Staff worked 13 overpayments, 2 plat reviews, 1 pre-permit, 1 data request, 5 bankruptcy payments/issues, 23 discoveries, 29 releases, and 14 refunds. 228 pieces of mail were received and processed. 12 exemption applications were processed. The Department has completed July Motor Vehicle renewals and 544 business and residential listings.

Senior Center

The Senior Games will continue until April 25th. We will have a rain make-up date Monday, April 28th, for discus throw, shot put and softball throw. The Closing Gala/Athletic Awards will be on Friday, May 2nd, to celebrate and recognize the seniors who participated for their dedication and commitment to a healthy active lifestyle.

Social Services

The Social Services Department's Income Maintenance Staff continues to work diligently as NC FAST implementation continues. Two conference calls were held this week. On Tuesday, the Director attended a conference call for County Managers and Directors that was facilitated by Rebecca Troutman, Intergovernmental Relations Directors with the NC Association of County Commissioners. On Wednesday, the Director and Income Maintenance Administrator attended the regular weekly NC FAST conference call. On Tuesday, the Rutherford County Community Child Protection Team/Child Fatality Prevention Team met at DSS. District Court Judge Rob Martelle and Chief Probation and Parole Officer, Lamonda Davis, were welcomed as new members to the team. Also on Tuesday, Family and Children Services Staff held their regular monthly staff meeting/breakfast. Jamie Dunn and Josh McCraw, detectives with the Narcotics Division of the Sheriff's Department, provided an in-service training on issues relating to narcotics in Rutherford County. On Wednesday, the agency held its annual employee appreciation cookout. This honors all staff at the agency and is held in conjunction with Income Maintenance Appreciate Week, Social Worker Appreciate Week, and Administrative Professional's Day... and every day that they commit to the important work that they do. Rutherford County is fortunate to have an extremely dedicated and hard working DSS Staff. The Staff enjoyed hamburgers and hot-dogs with all the trimmings, chips, and dessert, in addition to music and corn hole. Kandi Bridges, IM Administrator, and Rebecca Kennedy, Program Integrity Worker, attended a regional Program Integrity meeting in Mecklenburg County on Thursday. Rebecca provided a presentation on maneuvering through the NC FAST System as it relates to Program Integrity. Rebecca provides much support and technical assistance with NC FAST for the Income Maintenance Staff. Brett Farris, a member of Boy Scout Troop 138 sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is completing his Eagle Scout Project with DSS. He will collect backpacks or other type bags with new, small stuffed animals and personal care kits for foster children in Rutherford County. He has reached out to multiple churches and schools and is looking for additional youth organizations, church groups or individuals and families who would like to assist foster children in the county. The bags will be prepared for children of all ages from babies to teenagers. Brett's family fostered children for four years in Yellowstone County, Montana where he developed a compassionate for the needs of these children, seeing firsthand the issues that they are confronted with.

Soil and Water

The Soil and Water Department's Admin/Education Specialist attended the Open Meetings Webinar and the Livable Communities Project Announcement and worked on District Meeting minutes and worked with the watershed contractor. The Ag Cost Share Technician had CPA 52 training with NRCS, a Farm visit with Caldwell County and a farm visit to monitor construction. The Tech also processed 1 request for payment and answered several technical service questions for landowners.

Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Landfill served 290 customers, hauled 62 loads from convenience centers, shipped 34 loads to Lenoir and sent out 2 recycling trailers. The Director attended several meeting this week including solid waste sign review with the Public Information Clerk, meeting with Carolina Value Village and the ERPC meeting. The Director has also worked on signage quotes with the Assistant Finance Director for the convenience centers. Staff continues to work on the budget process for next year. The rest of the staff continues to perform everyday job duties while performing extra work at the convenience centers. Staff also installed a new gate to the entrance of the landfill. The Director also worked with Mark on getting contracts signed to start fixing the fence at Danielstown. The landfill issued P.O. numbers for Shiloh water problem to be fixed and the Golden Valley drainage problem.

The Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is as follows.

Active Cases 12
Convenience Center Cases 3
Non Center Cases 9
Pictures Taken 0
Letters Sent 0
Community Service Workers 1
Community Service Reports 1

Tourism Development Authority

The TDA met with Kitty McCammon, met with Charette representing the Welcome Center, met with Richard Williams regarding allowable requirements, presented at Lake Lure town center session, worked on and reviewed scheduling systems, and did preliminary work on the 2014-2015 budget.

The Wayfinding Committee met to discuss stakeholder communication, present a final draft report on presentation details, and to report more headway on WMP final draft .

Although some of the county offices were closed, the Welcome Center was open on Good Friday.

Transportation Services

The Transportation Services Department's **EMS** personnel responded to 139 emergency calls and 49 convalescent calls.

Transit: Transit drove 8597 miles, completed 804 local trips and 75 out of county trips, transported 254 unduplicated passengers and collected \$13,737.63 in revenue. Mack Lammonds and Carolyn Kelly were hired as part-time drivers and are currently in orientation with the Operations Manager. Lockable MDT cradles have been ordered for the installation of tablets in Transit vehicles.

Veterans Services

The Veterans Services Office had 22 mail-ins, 31 mail-outs, 52 telephone contacts, and 99 veteran contacts.

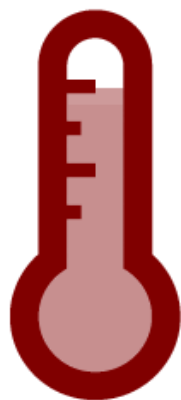


The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

Rutherford County Government
BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, May 7th
11:00 am – 3:30 pm

PLEASE DONATE BLOOD!



Red Cross Blood Drive

75% and climbing

We're close to our target goal with just a few days left. Sign up now to save a life later.

Contact Brooke Watson or click the Register Now button below to set aside a special time just for you to make a difference.



[Register Now!](#)

Keep In Touch

It's easy to join our mailing list!

Just send your email address by text message.



Text **RCNC**
to 22828 to get started.
Message and data rates may apply.



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Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board
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